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28th JANUARY, 1805.

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Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole House, on Wednesday next.

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## A B I L L,

*For establishing Trading Houses with the Indian Tribes.*

1    **Be it enacted**, by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2    tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,  
3    That it shall be lawful for the President of the United States, to  
4    establish trading houses at such posts and places on the frontiers,  
5    or in the Indian country, on either or both sides of the Mississippi-  
6    river, as he shall judge most convenient, for the purpose of car-  
7    rying on a liberal trade with the several Indian nations within  
8    the United States, or their territories.

1    SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the President shall be  
2    authorized to appoint a superintendant of Indian trade, whose du-  
3    ty it shall be to purchase and take charge of all goods intended

4 for trade with the Indian nations aforeaid, and to transmit the  
 5 same to such places as he shall be directed by the President of the  
 6 United States. And he shall take an oath or affirmation, faith-  
 7 fully to execute the trust committed to him, and that he will not,  
 8 directly or indirectly, be concerned or interested in any trade,  
 9 commerce, or barter, but on the public account; and he shall also  
 10 give bond in the penal sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, with  
 11 sufficient security, to be approved of by the secretary of the trea-  
 12 sury of the United States, truly and honestly to account for all the  
 13 money, goods, and other property whatever, which shall come  
 14 into his hands, or for which in good faith he ought so to account,  
 15 and to perform all the duties required of him by this act: And  
 16 his accounts shall be made up quarter yearly, and transmitted to  
 17 the secretary of the treasury.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the superintendant of  
 2 Indian trade shall receive an annual salary of  
 3 dollars, payable quarter yearly, at the treasury of the United  
 4 States.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the superintendant of  
 2 Indian trade shall be authorized to nominate, and with the appro-  
 3 bation of the President of the United States, to appoint for each  
 4 trading house established, an agent, for whose good conduct the  
 5 said superintendant shall be responsible, and it shall be lawful for  
 6 the said superintendant to demand from each agent so appointed,  
 7 a bond with sufficient surety, in a sum not exceeding

8 dollars, for the faithful discharge of the duties imposed  
9 upon such agent by this act.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of  
2 each of the said agents, to receive from the superintendent of In-  
3 dian trade, and dispose of in trade with the Indian nations afore-  
4 said, such goods as may be transmitted to him by the said super-  
5 intendant, to be received and disposed of as aforesaid, according  
6 to the rules and orders which the President of the United States  
7 shall prescribe ; and every such agent shall take an oath or affir-  
8 mation, faithfully to execute the trust committed to him ; and that  
9 he will not, directly or indirectly, be concerned or interested in any  
10 trade, commerce, or barter, but on the public account ; and he  
11 shall render an account quarter yearly to the superintendent of  
12 Indian trade, of all money, goods, and other property whatsoever,  
13 which shall be transmitted to him, or which shall come into his  
14 hands, or for which in good faith he ought to account ; and he  
15 shall transmit duplicates of his accounts to the secretary of the  
16 treasury of the United States.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the superintendent of  
2 Indian trade, the agents, their clerks, or other persons employed  
3 by them, shall not be directly or indirectly concerned or inte-  
4 rested in carrying on the business of trade or commerce, on their  
5 own or any other than the public account, or take or apply to his  
6 or their own use, any emolument or gain, for negotiating or trans-  
7 acting any business or trade, during his or their appointment,

8 agency or employment, other than provided by this act, or ex-  
 9 cepting for or on account of the United States. And if any  
 10 such person shall offend against any of the prohibitions aforesaid,  
 11 he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall upon con-  
 12 viction thereof, forfeit to the United States a sum not exceeding  
 13 dollars, and shall be removed from such  
 14 office, agency, or employment, and forever thereafter be incapa-  
 15 ble of holding any office under the United States: *Provided,*  
 16 That if any person other than a public prosecutor, shall give in-  
 17 formation of any such offence, upon which a prosecution and con-  
 18 viction shall be had, one half of the aforesaid penalty when re-  
 19 ceived, shall be for the use of the person giving such informa-  
 20 tion. *And provided also,* That if such misdemeanor be commit-  
 21 ted by the superintendant of Indian trade, or by any agent, it  
 22 shall be deemed a breach of the condition of his bond, and the pe-  
 93 nalty thereof may be recovered in any court having competent  
 24 jurisdiction of the same.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the prices of goods  
 2 supplied to, and to be paid for by the Indians, shall be regulated  
 3 in such manner that the capital stock furnished by the United  
 4 States, shall not be diminished.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That during the continu-  
 2 ance of this act, the annual sum of dollars, be,  
 3 and the same is hereby appropriated for the payment of the sala-  
 4 ry of the superintendant of Indian trade, to be paid out of any

5 money in the treasury of the United States, not otherwise appro-  
6 priated.

SEC. 9. And be it further enacted, That during the continu-  
ance of this act, the President of the United States be, and he is  
hereby authorized to draw annually from the treasury of the  
United States, a sum not exceeding                      dollars,  
to be applied under his direction to the payment of the agents  
and clerks; which agents shall be allowed to draw out of the pub-  
lic supplies                      rations each, and each clerk  
ration per day.

1      SECT. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That the sum of  
2                   dollars, exclusive of the salary of the superintendent  
3 of Indian trade, and of the allowances to agents and clerks, be,  
4 and the same is hereby appropriated, for the purpose of carrying  
5 on trade and intercourse with the Indian nations, in the manner  
6 aforesaid, to be paid out of any monies in the treasury of the  
7 United States, not otherwise appropriated.

1      SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That if any agent or agents,  
2      their clerks, or other person employed by them, shall purchase or  
3      receive from any Indian, in the way of trade or barter, any gun or  
4      other article commonly used in hunting ; any instrument of hus-  
5      bandry or cooking utensil, of the kind usually obtained by Indians  
6      in their intercourse with white people, or any article of cloth-

